



April 29, 2007.

To : Dr. Yelena G. Gakh
US patent & Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re : Application No. 10/675,765
Art Unit 1743

Dear Dr. Yelena G. Gakh :

In response to detailed action of 4-2-2007, the applicant would like to traverse according to 37CFR 1.143 on the ground that the present inventions and species are not patentably distinct based on the following reasons:

1. The scope of the invention is a method of analysis of alcohols by mass spectrometry, not a method of conversion to esters or carbamates.
2. The mode of operation of this method is to tag onto one set of alcohols, by way of chemical reaction, a stable isotope labeled adduct to make the internal standards, and another set of alcohols, a non-labeled adduct to convert the alcohols in the sample.
3. The products from the addition of the adducts are higher molecular compounds and that is the requirement of the invented method. Whether they are esters or carbamates, they are both higher molecular weight compounds generated from the same alcohols. They are obvious.

By convention of organic chemistry, when alcohols react with an acid anhydride or an acid chloride, the products are esters. When alcohols react with an isocyanate, the products are carbamates. It is not the kind of compounds, esters or carbamates, that are significant to the method. It is the higher molecular weight nature of the compounds that is significant to the method. Only the masses of compounds that make the difference in mass spectrometric analysis, not whether they are esters or carbamates.

Per your request, the applicant has elected common species with traverse for the present invention. The common species are the converted alcohols with the formulas ROCOR', wherein R is alkyl or aryl or heteroatom cyclic or non-cyclic group and R' is alkyl or aminoalkyl group. When the chemical reagent used is the acid anhydride or the acid chloride, the R' is an alkyl group. When the chemical reagent used is the isocyanate, the R' is an aminoalkyl group. Again, even though by convention of organic chemistry, ROCOR' is an ester if R' is an alkyl group and ROCOR' is a carbamate if R' is an aminoalkyl group, with respect to the invented method here, both ester ROCOR' and carbamate ROCOR' are regarded as higher molecular weight derivatives of alcohols ROH, generated for the purpose of identification and quantification of alcohols by mass

spectrometry. The scope and the mode of operation of both ester ROCOR' and carbamate ROCOR' are the same in this method. They are obvious variants.

We ask that the "Claims" section, the "Details description of the invention" section, and the "Abstract of the disclosure" section are allowed to be amended to reflect the elected invention or species. In these sections the added text are underlined and the deleted text are in brackets. Also the terminologies such as "alcohol(s)" are deleted and are replaced or amended by "alcohols".

Sincerely and best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nguyen Hoa D.', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hoa D. Nguyen
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